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Chris Gibson

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Congressman Chris Gibson Supports Defense Authorization Bill

Amendments include better prioritizing of resources and support for nanotechnology

Washington, May 12 -

Congressman Chris Gibson (NY-20) announced today that several of his amendments were included in the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which was adopted late last night by the House Armed Services Committee. The NDAA is an annual authorization bill that sets military policy and funding for the coming fiscal year. As a member of the Committee and a 24-year Army veteran, Congressman Gibson had an integral role in shaping the authorization bill.

“Ensuring that our service men and women have the resources they need to complete their missions is the principle focus of the Armed Services Committee, and I believe this defense authorization is a reflection of that goal. Our current fiscal reality demands we utilize limited resources more effectively. I was pleased the Committee made tough choices to further that goal as well as institute structural reforms to identify future cost savings more strategically. I worked with the Chairman to make certain a quadrennial report conducted by the Department of Defense is a real first step towards a comprehensive strategic assessment that will transition our national security establishment so that we can protect our way of life in a manner consistent with a republic,” said **Congressman Gibson**. “Additionally, I included a study on designating a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) for nanotechnology, which I think has tremendous potential for defense applications, as well as directed \$7 million in funding for this research.”

“This action by the House Armed Services Committee represents great news for the Capital Region, New York State, and the nation. Congressman Chris Gibson is to be applauded for his vision and leadership in advancing the concept of a Federally Funded Research and Development Center dedicated to nanotechnology for defense related innovations, and commended for his drive to make such a critical enterprise a reality. An FFRDC for nanoscale defense applications represents a clear and present national priority, not only to provide our fighting men and women with the state-of-the-art technological tools to protect and safeguard this great country, but also to ensure its ability to maintain its scientific and economic competitiveness in the nanotechnology enabled global economy of the 21 century. The Capital Region is uniquely predisposed to benefit from this FFRDC, leading to significant Federal investments and high tech jobs creation and retention,” said **Alain Kaloyeros, the SUNY College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering Senior Vice President and CEO**.

“I also added a provision expressing the sense of Congress that there be a national Yellow Ribbon Day, an important demonstration of support for our Armed Forces and their families,” continued **Congressman Gibson**.

“I think this very important, because we need a day for our troops. I’m very glad that the Armed Services Committee, with Congressman Gibson’s leadership and support, included this recognition. This is something I’ve worked on since Desert Storm and I’m very excited about bringing this day to the rest

of the nation to show our support,” said **Carol Hotaling, the “Yellow Ribbon Lady.”**

Full List of Congressman Gibson Additions and Amendments to the 2012 NDAA

- Commission a study by the Department of Defense to assess the desirability of establishing a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) for nanotechnology. This would allow the SUNY Albany College of Nanoscale Science to compete for this designation, and associated federal support, if it is determined necessary. The authorization also expresses the sense of the Committee that such a FFRDC should be designated.
- Provide \$7 million (fully offset) in funding for nanotechnology research in the defense field. SUNY Albany would be able to compete for this funding as well.
- Commission a study to determine if the Special Operations Command should be reorgnaized to better fight the war against Al Qaeda and their affiliates. This would promote joint intelligence work, with local decision making powers, to better address national security threats.
- Revise the Quadrennial Roles and Missions Report, prepared every four years to guide Pentagon priorities, to gather advice from both top uniformed officers and DOD civilians on roles and missions.
- Express the sense of Congress that there be a national Yellow Ribbon Day, modeled after the Yellow Ribbon Day already observed in the 20th Congressional District.
- Express the sense of Congress that 'Taps' be designated as the national song of remembrance.

The bill now moves to the full House of Representatives for floor consideration.

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Gibson Intel Amendment Adopted by House

Washington, May 13 -

Congressman Chris Gibson (NY-20) announced today that an amendment he offered to the Fiscal Year 2011 Intelligence Authorization Act passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 278-123. The amendment would require the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) to submit to Congress a report containing recommendations the Director considers appropriate for consolidating the intelligence community.

“Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, our intelligence community has expanded considerably to address the significant threats posed by Al Qaeda and their desire to do us harm. With this expansion came the creation of a new position – the Director of National Intelligence – who I believe has never been given the appropriate authority to ensure our intelligence efforts are streamlined to promote efficiency and the effective sharing of information. Thus, my amendment charges the DNI to submit recommendations on the consolidation of our intelligence establishment in order to better protect our way of life,” said Congressman Gibson.

The Intelligence Authorization Act now goes to the Senate for consideration.